

against polio and several other infectious diseases. In 1986, it decided to support the effort through 2005, the club's centennial year. It did not envisage eradicating polio.

A two-year campaign brought in more than twice as much money as expected—\$247 million, not \$120 million. Partly on the strength of that support, the World Health Organization in 1988 announced its intent to rid the world of polio. A WHO-led effort had previously eradicated smallpox in a campaign lasting from 1966 to 1980.

"A lot of people have very ambitious ideas, but almost nobody has the funding to kickstart a global initiative," Aylward said. "Rotary was the Gates Foundation of 1988."

But eradication has proved more difficult than anyone anticipated. The target date was originally 2000; it is now 2005. The extra time required more money. Earlier this year, Rotary completed a second fundraising campaign, which raised \$111 million—again more than the target, which was \$80 million. The club's contributions, including interest, now total more than \$500 million.

Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club, decided to reorient much of its sight-saving efforts after it held a symposium with experts in blindness prevention in Singapore in 1989.

"We were astounded to hear that blindness was increasing, particularly in the developing world," said Brian Stevenson, a provincial judge in Alberta who had just finished a term as Lions president. "They told us there were 40 million blind people in the world, and 32 million of the cases were or had been treatable. So it gave us a lot of focus."

Lions set a goal of \$130 million but raised \$147 million for its SightFirst program. The organization has funded more than 550 grants in 78 countries targeting the main causes of blindness.

Kiwanis's entry into the global health arena was due in part to the example of the two other clubs.

In 1991, William Foege, former head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asked the Kiwanis president, a physician named Wil Blechman, what the club was doing for the world's children. Foege cited Rotary's polio work and Lions' just-created SightFirst. While Kiwanis had urged local clubs to have a charitable activity aimed at children younger than 5, there was no organization-wide project.

"I will bring this to the attention of our board, because I don't know at the moment," Blechman recalled answering sheepishly.

The board discussed the idea and ultimately surveyed its membership, which favored a global project 2 to 1. UNICEF suggested a focus on iodine deficiency.

Iodine is an essential part of thyroid hormone, which in turn is essential to brain development. In places where diets contain insufficient iodine, generally because the soil contains little and there is no seafood, the intelligence of the entire population is shifted downward. In 1990, only 20 percent of the world's households consumed salt treated with enough iodine to prevent deficiency.

UNICEF estimated the problem could be eliminated worldwide in five years for \$50 million to \$75 million. Kiwanis took the challenge because it was important, concrete and "something we thought we could handle," Blechman said.

The organization pledged to raise \$75 million and has already contributed \$57 million. The money pays for iodization equipment for salt manufacturers and campaigns on the importance of iodized salt.

Occasionally, members of service clubs do the work themselves. Thousands of Rotarians, both local and foreign volunteers, have participated in national immunization days when vaccine is given to millions of children over a few days.

Dave Groner, a 60-year-old funeral director in Dowagiac, Mich., has led four groups of Rotarians to India and one to Nigeria. Next month, he will take 14 people, 10 of them nurses, to Niger. They will all pay their own way—about \$3,000 each. "We've never been asked to not work or to get lost," he said.

Occasionally, club members play a role nobody else can. Angola has a single Rotary Club, 32 people who meet in the capital, Luanda. They are led by Sylvia Nagy, who with her husband owns a foundry. In 1997, a 25-year civil war, which ended last year with the death of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, was underway. There had not been a vaccination campaign in the rebel-held half of the country in years.

Nagy, along with representatives of WHO and UNICEF, negotiated a truce so immunization days could be held in June that year. Rotary rented planes, boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles to deliver vaccine, and disbursed \$4 million to far-flung vaccinators. About 2.5 million children were vaccinated.

On Sept. 2, Angola marked its second year without a single case of polio.

#### HONORING CALDWELL, IDAHO

##### HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Caldwell, Idaho for their outstanding record of city management. The city was recently honored to be on the short list for a national city management award, for cities with populations under 50,000. As part of their recognition, CNN wanted to include them in a program highlighting such cities around the United States. Caldwell has made many strides recently towards revitalizing their downtown, with projects such as the Indian Creek reconfiguration project. The cost of being included in CNN's program, however, was \$24,000—a fee used to bring the television crew to the city. Under Mayor Garret Nancolas, the city declined CNN's offer because of the high cost to be included. The city felt the funds could be used more appropriately to directly benefit their citizens. This example truly reiterates the city's dedication to its citizens and its exceptional management. The city of Caldwell, Idaho should be an example to cities nationwide and I am honored to represent such an exceptional city. The State of Idaho is also honored to include this city as one of its own.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN C. YOUNG

##### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. Last week I was informed that Sgt. Ryan C. Young of my hometown of Corona, California passed away due to complications from injuries sustained while fighting in Fallujah, Iraq on November 8, 2003. Today I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country.

Ryan was born on June 29, 1982, in Orange, California. After graduating from Norco High School in 2000, he enlisted in the Army. He was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, based in Fort Riley, Kansas as an infantryman and was deployed to Iraq in September.

On November 8, 2003, while riding in an armored vehicle with other U.S. troops, his vehicle was hit by an explosive device. Ryan was sent to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland but later passed away from complications from his injuries on December 2, 2003. He was 21 years old and leaves behind a wife, mother and father.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like Ryan, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. My thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to his wife and family. There are no words that can relieve their pain. Ryan was awarded the Purple Heart and will be laid to rest at the Riverside National Cemetery where he will be close to home and those who love him.

His wife and family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and I hope they know that their son and the sacrifice he has made will not be forgotten.

#### HONORING LARRY R. COOPER FOR HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 8, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Larry R. Cooper, Assistant Regional Inspector General for the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region. Mr. Cooper has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 35-year commitment to the USDA and the people of the Great Plains region.

Mr. Cooper began his career with the USDA Office of the Inspector General in 1969 as an auditor for the Kansas City office. He was quickly promoted and became Supervisory Auditor in 1976 and Assistant Regional Inspector General for the Great Plains Region in 1987, a position he has dedicated himself to for the past 16 years. In this position, Mr. Cooper planned, directed, and supervised the performance of all auditing activities.

During his career with the USDA, Mr. Cooper was recognized for using advanced audit techniques, pioneering efforts in controls over automated systems, and innovatively using statistical sampling. Mr. Cooper was honored for his performance by both the agency and the President's Council on Efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Larry R. Cooper, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region and the people of the United States of America.